



**T**he Hong Kong-based Jade Group is bringing the Masters of Percussion concert to South-East Asia this October-November, giving audiences an opportunity to not just experience melodic and rhythmic routines but also witness a dazzling display by the Manipuri dancing drummers. In what will be a fusion on traditional and folk instruments, the concert will also have other artisans playing the ghatam, sitar, dhol and so on. Explains maestro Zakir Hussain, "Indian classical music is based on improvising, so the creative element is spontaneous. However, I can say there are elements of both North and South Indian classical music plus folk music as well as contemporary music; the exciting part of the show is to watch all these genres express themselves individually and also find a way to project as one voice." Hussain says that interest in Indian music is growing in the South-East Asian region. "In America, Indian music had its first taste of success in the late 1960s when Ravi Shankar and my father Ustad Allah Rakha had become very popular after their great concert at the Monterey Pop festival. With their new-found wealth in the 1980-90s, expat Indians started to support our arts, thus initiating a sort of Renaissance of Indian culture which still endures." "I believe that a similar scenario is emerging in Singapore, Indonesia and Hong Kong; several music and dance schools have sprouted up and a lot is being done to teach this art form to not only Indians but also natives." **is**

Jade Group International is a full service event management company registered in Hong Kong with operations in Singapore and Thailand. [www.jadegrouphk.com](http://www.jadegrouphk.com)

Venue: Esplanade Concert Hall

Date: October 30 2008-09-20

Ticket Price: \$150, 120, 100, 70, 50

(10% discount applicable to group purchases of 10 or more, fulltime students, senior citizens, NSF)

For enquiries call: +65 8201 4757

# Thrill to the beat

Look forward to an outstanding evening of rhythm in Singapore with tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain, writes NITHYA SUBRAMANIAN